

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 140645Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3375

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ISTANBUL STUDENT ACTIVISM CONTINUES

REF: ISTANBUL 3236

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH RIGHT-LEFT STUDENT CONFRONTATION THIS WEEK LIMITED TO FEW SKIRMISHES, LOCAL CAMPUSES CONTINUE TO BE SCENE OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

1. CAMPUS UNREST CONTINUED IN ISTANBUL THIS WEEK WITH SPORADIC SKIRMISHES BETWEEN MILITANT STUDENT GROUPS OF LEFT AND RIGHT. SCENE OF PRINCIPAL CONFRONTATIONS WAS ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY(IU) WHERE RIGHT-WING "COMMANDOS" SCUFFLED WITH LEFTISTS DEC. 10 AND 12. ON DEC. 10 COMMANDOS ALLEGEDLY TRIED "OCCUPY" IU MAIN BUILDING WHERE LEFTISTS PRESENT. ENSUING STRUGGLE, DURING WHICH NEWSPAPERS REPORT THROWING OF MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, WAS PUT DOWN BY UNIVERSITY RECTOR HALUP ALP, WHO CLOSED UNIVERSITY FOR HALF DAY TO ALLOW TEMPER TO COOL, AND BY POLICE WHO APPEARED WITH ARMORED "PANZER" RIOT VEHICLES IN SQUARE OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY. POTENTIALLY VIOLENT CLASH DEC. 12 BETWEEN LEFTISTS HOLDING "FORUM" AT SAME BUILDING AND "COMMANDOS" AVOIDED BY POLICE ARRIVAL OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY.

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2. IN OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL ACADEMIES THERE HAVE BEEN

CALLS FOR BOYCOTTS BUT STUDENT RESPONSE LIMITED. POLICE DEC 12. STOP
PED
PROTEST MARCH AT ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU) BY
STUDENTS SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS BUT NO VIOLENCE OCCURRED.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LATEST STUDENT CONFRONTATIONS NOT SERIOUS
IN THEMSELVES, THEY INDICATE THAT MILITANTS ON LEFT AND RIGHT
INTEND CONTINUE PHYSICAL AS WELL AS IDEOLOGICAL GANG WARFARE
IN EFFORT GAIN CAMPUS HEGEMONY. COMBINATION OF LEVEHEAD-
EDNESS ON PART UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS, WHO HAVE ASKED
POLICE NOT TO INTERVENE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED, AND
RELATIVE RESTRAINT ON PART STUDENT THEMSELVES, HAS HELPED
CONTAIN SITUATION. AS CLASHES CONTINUE, HOWEVER, IT POSSIBLE
THAT MISCALCULATION BY STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION OR
POLICE COULD TRIGGER VIOLENT ACTION-REACTION REMINISCENT OF
1969-71.
MACE

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